

Phenotypes of aggression: proactive and reactive aggression in borderline and antisocial personality disorders

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Introduction

- ASPD and BPD are conditions with a high degree of comorbidity and certain shared symptoms, including aggression.
- The aim of this study is to see if there is a difference in phenotypic aggression between the two disorders
- This study will examine two phenotypes of aggression, proactive and reactive.

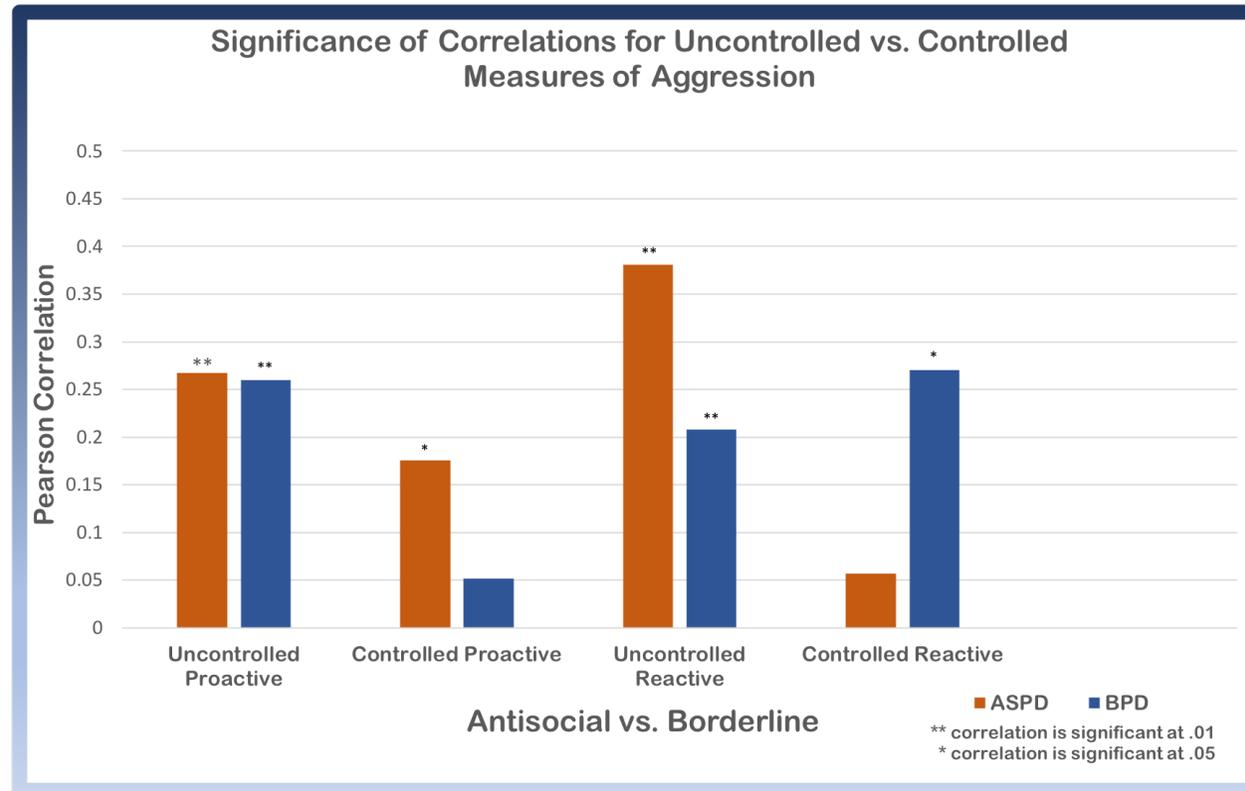
Hypotheses:

- 1) ASPD will be associated only with proactive aggression (PA).
- 2) BPD will be associated only with reactive aggression (RA).

Methods

- 178 individuals, 158 men and 20 women, mean age 35.4
- Recruitment: Temporary employment agencies in LA area
- Personality disorder measures: Structured Clinical Interview for Axis II Disorders (SCID).
- Reactive-Proactive Aggression Questionnaire (RPQ) was used to assess RA & PA
- Analyses: Pearson correlations

ASPD is associated only with proactive aggression, and BPD is associated only with reactive aggression when using standardized measures.



Results

- Unstandardized measures: ASPD correlated significantly with both PA and RA. The same was true of BPD.
- Standardized measures: the ASPD/PA correlation remained significant, while the ASPD/RA correlation fell to non-significance. The opposite was true of BPD. The BPD/PA correlation fell to non-significance, while the BPD/RA correlation remained significant.

Discussion

- Double-dissociation is important for:
 - Defining and studying aggression in ASPD and BPD
 - Developing specialized aggression treatments for these disorders.
- Future literature should control for comorbid symptoms when studying aggression in ASPD/BPD. Improving methodology will hopefully lead to more accurate studies.

References

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